

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06577 041726Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 SAB-01 /090 W
----- 126350

R 041532Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 696

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS TUNIS 6577

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF,TS

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA ON SINAI II

REF: PARIS 28449; TUNIS 6528.

1. EMBASSY PARIS HAS REPORTED (PARIS REFTEL) BOURGUIBA'S REMARKS IN LE MONDE NOVEMBER 1 ON THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN "SINAI II" AGREEMENT. TUNIS REFTEL REPORTS LOCAL ARABIC PRESS INTERVIEW ON SAME SUBJECT.

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE APPEARING IN L'ACTION NOVEMBER 4, BOUGUIBA AGAIN ADDRESSED SUBJECT OF SINAI II: "I AM NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AN OVERALL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE NEAR EAST, WHICH IS TO SAY THE EVACUATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, ETC... I HOPE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS PLAYED A GOOD CARD IN HAVING FAITH IN AMERICA AND MR. KISSINGER, BUT, FUNDAMENTALLY, I DOUBT IT. THIS OVERALL SOLUTION IS NOT FOR TOMORROW ... SADAT MAY HAVE GIVEN HIS CONFIDENCE TOO QUICKLY TO AMERICA
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06577 041726Z

TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM."

3. IF SINAI II LEADS TO A NEW DISENGAGEMENT ON THE GOLAN, BOUGUIBA SAID, THIS WILL STRAIGHTEN OUT THE SITUATION FOR ASSAD, WHICH IS NOT EASY. "WE WANT TO HAVE FAITH IN MR. KISSINGER," HE ADDED, "BUT IF A YEAR OR TWO FROM NOW THERE IS NOTHING (OF FURTHER PROGRESS) THERE IS RISK OF AN EXPLOSION..."

4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE CONSIDERED THE PRESENCE OF THE TWO GREAT POWERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AS A FACTOR FOR TENSION OR STABILITY, THE PRESIDENT REPLIED, "I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT, IN THE PRESENT STATE OF EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN ATOMIC FORCES, THERE IS RISK OF A THIRD WORLD WAR. ONE SAW THIS WELL DURING THE CUBAN CRISIS...IN THE SAME SENSE, IN THE NEAR EAST, AMERICA HAS MADE PROGRESS IN EGYPT WITHOUT LOSING THE FRIENDSHIP OF ISRAEL: THIS IS GREAT PROGRESS. TENSIONS EXIST BUT FORTUNATELY, THEY DO NOT AMOUNT TO CONFLAGRATION."
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